



# Arkansas Department of Health

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## Social Work Licensing Board

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Governor Asa Hutchinson

José Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

Ruthie Bain, Director

TO: Interest Persons

FROM: Ruthie Bain, Director

DATE: October 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Proposed Rules for Arkansas Social Workers

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As a part of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act (§25-15-204) process, attached for your review and comment are proposed rule revisions.

Public comments must be submitted in writing at the above address or at the following email address: [swlb@arkansas.gov](mailto:swlb@arkansas.gov) Please note that public comments submitted in response to this notice are considered public documents. A public comment, including the commenter's name and any personal information contained within the public comment, will be made publicly available and may be seen by various people.

All comments must be submitted in writing to the Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board no later than November 12, 2021.

## NOTICE OF RULE MAKING

The Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board hereby issues the following proposed rules under one or more of the following chapters or sections of the Arkansas Code: §17-103-101 *et seq.*; Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act §25-15-204.

- Changes to Rule II: amends the Board's current language regarding Military personnel licensure. The language is taken directly from Act 135; removes reference to permanently disqualifying offenses in regard to background checks as required by Act 748; and adds language regarding applicants with "work permits" in accordance with Act 746.
- Changes to Rule VII: adds the waiver of initial license fee for those individuals listed in Act 725.
- Changes to Rule IX: adds volunteer services provided under the Volunteer Healthcare Act to the Board's existing continuing education criteria in accordance with Act 968.
- Changes to Rule XIV: revises the definition of "originating site" to include the home of the patient for telemedicine purposes and adds language regarding the use of telemedicine for group therapy in accordance with Act 767; and revises the definition of "professional relationship" to remove audio only communication for telemedicine purposes in accordance with Act 829

The proposed rule is available for review at <http://www.arkansas.gov/swlb/> and the Social Work Licensing Board office, 5800 West 10<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 100, Little Rock, AR 72204. A copy of the proposed rule can also be accessed on the Secretary of State's website at [sos.arkansas.gov/rules\\_and\\_regs/index.php/rules](http://sos.arkansas.gov/rules_and_regs/index.php/rules). All comments must be submitted in writing to the Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board no later than November 12, 2021.

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, contact [swlb@arkansas.gov](mailto:swlb@arkansas.gov).